

1829, Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. ii. p. 394. In the Belfast Newsletter of Dec. 20, 1831, the following paragraph appeared:—“In the early part of last month a beautiful specimen of the Bohemian wax-wing (*Bombycilla Bohemica*, Briss.), was shot in Newtownlimavady. It was perched upon a rowan tree in a garden, and seemed busily employed in picking off the berries; many of them were found in its craw when it was opened.” In the collection of Dr. R. Graves of Dublin, I have seen one which was killed in Ireland. On Feb. 6, 1835*, an extremely beautiful individual of this species was shot in a garden at Ballymacarret, in the suburbs of Belfast, and on the following day another was seen at the same place. The former, which came under my inspection, proved on dissection to be a female; its stomach, which I did not examine until the 10th, four days after its death, was entirely filled with the hairs of the white-thorn (*Cratægus Oxyacantha*), which possessed an odour as fresh as if just plucked from the tree. Each wing exhibited six plumelets, with their scarlet wax-like adornments; some authors have described the female as wanting these altogether, and the greatest number I have seen attributed to her are four or five. (Temm.) In a few other instances, but without particulars, I have had reports of the wax-wing’s occurrence in Ireland.

XIX.—On a New English Species of *Urtica*. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.

AT a recent meeting of the Cambridge Ray Club my attention was drawn (by the Rev. Dr. Jermyn,) to the fact, that two very distinct plants existed in our native herbaria under the name of *Urtica pilulifera*, Linn., and I can only account for our not having previously observed their differences from the circumstance, that English specimens of the true plant of Linnæus do not exist in the collections of Cambridge botanists.

Upon further examination I was much pleased by finding that one of these plants was the true *U. pilulifera*, and that

* Just at this time a specimen was mentioned in the papers to have been shot near Alcester in England.

the other exactly corresponded with the *U. Dodartii* of Linnæus, of which there is a specimen in the University Herbarium, ticketed as the plant of Dodart by the elder Martyn, and also another with the Linnæan description appended in the hand-writing of the younger Martyn. In the Linnæan Herbarium there is a specimen which quite accords with our native plant, but its locality is unknown. Dodart's original figure agrees very well with our plant, as do the descriptions of all the authors to which I have been able to refer. In Smith's Herbarium there is a specimen, marked *U. Dodartii*, Martigny, Switz. in Herb. Davall, which differs from our plant by having the leaves slightly serrated.

I now proceed to give the characters and descriptions of our two plants.

1. *U. Dodartii*, Linn. Foliis oppositis ovatis ovato-lanceolatisve subintegris, stipulis lanceolatis, glomerulis fructiferis globosis pedunculatis, seminibus sublævibus.

U. altera pilulifera parietariæ foliis, *Dod. Mem.* 131. plate.—*U. Dodartii*, *Linn. Sp. Pl.* 1395. *Willd. Sp. Pl.* 4. 347. *Enum. Hort. Berol.* 966. *Sm. in Rees' Cyclop.* v. 37. *Aiton. Hort. Kew.* 5. 262. *Reichen. Fl. excurs.* No. 1106.

Stems erect, numerous, cylindrical, hollow, leafy, 2—3 feet high. Leaves ovate or slightly ovate-lanceolate, very nearly entire, (in Martyn's specimens, gathered in the Cambridge garden, September 1761, and in one of those in Smith's Herbarium, they are decidedly serrate, but not in the same peculiarly coarse way as in *U. pilulifera*.) 3—5 ribbed at the base, on long stalks. Stipules small, narrowly lanceolate. Peduncles axillary, two together. Male flowers on a slender common peduncle, which is longer than the petiole, and has two or three longish branches springing from the axil of a minute lanceolate bractea; at the base and extremity of each branch there is a cluster of very shortly branched flowers.

Female flowers on a simple stalk which is shorter than the petiole, in a dense globular head. Seed brown with numerous dark purple dots, nearly smooth and shining.

Locality, Copford, Essex, *Rev. W. Whitear*; Upwell, Norfolk, *Rev. L. Jenyns*; near Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire, *Rev. Dr. Jermyn*. The stations given by Reichenbach, who I believe

to be the only author that has mentioned its native country, are near the Hague, near Delft, and in Friseland.

Doubts have been thrown upon the truly native character of this plant, and also of *U. pilulifera*. It appears not improbable that they may both have been introduced into this country at some former time. But as this is uncertain *U. Dodartii* has an equal claim to be considered as a native of England with *U. pilulifera*, which has long been introduced into our lists.

2. *U. pilulifera*, Linn. Foliis oppositis, latè ovatis cordatisve acuminatis grossè dentatis, stipulis oblongo-ovatis, glomerulis fructiferis globosis pedunculatis, seminibus punctato-tuberculatis.

U. pilulifera, Linn. *Sp. pl.* 1395. *Eng. Bot.* 148. *Sm. Eng. Fl.* 4. 134. *Wallr. Sched. Crit.* 488. *Reich. Fl. excurs. no.* 1105. *Koch. Syn.* 635.

Stems erect, bluntly quadrangular. Leaves broadly ovate, usually cordate at the base, the margins deeply cut into large divaricated teeth, much larger than those of *U. Dodartii*, and on longer and thicker stalks. Stipules oblong-ovate, broader than in the preceding. Fruit stalks very short, scarcely exceeding the diameter of the large globular head. Seed dark brown with numerous darker prominent points, rather opaque.

Locality, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Owing to the want of English specimens the description has been drawn up from the comparison of two foreign specimens (one No. 22 in Reichenbach's *Fl. Germ. Exsic.* communicated to that work from Thuringia by Wallroth, the other from Rome, gathered by W. C. Trevelyan, Esq.) with the plate in *Eng. Bot.*

The specimen of *U. Velearica* in the Linnæan Herbarium appears to be nothing more than a larger leaved form of this species, notwithstanding its usually cordate base to the leaves. Both the specimens mentioned above, and also the plant in Smith's *Herb.* from Hungary, are rather the *U. Velearica* than the *U. pilulifera* of Linnæus. I have never seen specimens with the leaves so decidedly rounded (not at all cordate) at the base as in the original plant of the *Linn. Herb.* It is much to be wished that botanists resident in the eastern counties would pay attention to these plants, in order that we may obtain information concerning their variations, and also their

real claim to be considered as native, not naturalized, plants in this island. I may add that some botanists consider both these plants to form only one species. This last is a question well worthy of experimental inquiry.

St. John's Coll. Cambridge, March 30, 1838.

XX.—*Notices of British Fungi*. By REV. M. J. BERKELEY, M.A., F.L.S.

[With two Plates.]

(Continued from No. III. Mag. of Zool. and Bot., vol. i. p. 513.)

*59. *Agaricus fulvus*, Bull. Dec. Fl. Fr. vol. ii. p. 186. The form described in the English Flora is that with pallid gills noticed by Retz. The present season has afforded a few specimens in which the gills and inside of the stem were more or less yellow.

60. *Ag. decolorans*, Fr. Syst. Myc. v. i. p. 56. Woods, at King's Cliffe, Sept. 1, 1837. Distinguished from *A. alutaceus* by its pale sporidia, in consequence of which the gills remain much longer white, so that on an hasty inspection it might be passed over as a form of *Ag. furcatus*. The inside of the stem, which is thick and spongy, acquires in general a cinereous tinge. It is an esculent species clearly pointed out by Micheli, p. 155. n. 1.

*61. *Ag. grammopodius*, Bull. Inserted in the English Flora on the authority of Withering and Purton. I have found it in two fields at Apethorpe, Norths, sometimes forming large rings, where it appears every autumn. The description given in Eng. Fl. of *Ag. nebularis*, a species with which I was not at the time of its publication well acquainted, belongs to the present Agaric. The discovery of the true plant, which is figured by Dr. Greville under the name of *Ag. turgidus*, has cleared up all doubt upon the point.

62. *Ag. unguinosus*, Fr. Syst. Myc. v. i. p. 101. Amongst wet grass and moss close to the Spa, King's Cliffe, Oct. 18, 1837.

63 †. *Ag. calyptræformis*, n. s. *Ag. conicus*, α . *amænus*,

† I have not thought it necessary to give figures of this or other new or little understood Agarics, as beautiful drawings have been made by Mr. J.